PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE STRUCTURAL STEEL BEAMS FROM JAPAN AND KOREA

Return completed questionnaire to:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Office of Investigations, Room 615 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436

So as to be received by the Commission by no later than November 14, 2005

The information called for in this questionnaire is for use by the United States International Trade Commission in connection with its reviews concerning structural steel beams from Korea (inv. Nos. 701-TA-401 and 731-TA-854 (Review)) and Japan (inv. No. 731-TA-853 (Review)). The information requested in the questionnaire is requested under the authority of the Tariff Act of 1930, title VII. This report is mandatory and failure to reply as directed can result in a subpoena or other order to compel the submission of records or information in your possession (19 U.S.C. § 1333(a)). Further information on this questionnaire can be obtained from Steven Trost (202-205-3220).

S		
	State	Zip code
Wide Web address		
firm purchased structural steel beams (as any time since January 1, 2000?	s defined in the instruction booklet)	from any source (domestic or
(Sign the certification below and pron	nptly return only this page of the qu	estionnaire to the Commission)
		naire, sign the certification, and
C	LERIFICATION	
questionnaire and throughout these rev	views in any other import-injury in	evestigations or reviews conducted by the
nd contract personnel who are acting in reviews or related proceedings for which t	n the capacity of Commission empt this information is submitted, or in	loyees, for developing or maintaining the internal audits and investigations relating
o of Authorized Official	Data	
e of Authorized Official		
v a	firm purchased structural steel beams (as any time since January 1, 2000? (Sign the certification below and prof.) (Read the instruction booklet carefull return the entire questionnaire to the continuous stand that the information submitted is sertification I also grant consent for the continuous questionnaire and throughout these returns the same or similar merchandise. (If you that information submitted in this question and contract personnel who are acting in reviews or related proceedings for which and operations of the Commission pursuitation.	(Sign the certification below and promptly return only this page of the question (Read the instruction booklet carefully, complete all parts of the question return the entire questionnaire to the Commission) CERTIFICATION information herein supplied in response to this questionnaire is complete an estand that the information submitted is subject to audit and verification by ertification I also grant consent for the Commission, and its employees and questionnaire and throughout these reviews in any other import-injury in the same or similar merchandise. (If you do not consent to such use, please that information submitted in this questionnaire response and throughout these and contract personnel who are acting in the capacity of Commission employees or related proceedings for which this information is submitted, or in and operations of the Commission pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3. I under

PART I.--GENERAL QUESTIONS

The questions in this questionnaire have been reviewed with market participants to ensure that issues of concern are adequately addressed and that data requests are sufficient, meaningful, and as limited as possible. Public reporting burden for this questionnaire is estimated to average 20 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the questionnaire. Send comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436.

				completing the form.	red and the cost to	•	
					no	urs	dollars
1		specific q		ents you may have for . Please attach such co			
1		n booklet	for repor	of establishment(s) coverting guidelines). If ye symbol.			
-							
_							
-	Is your firm o	wad in	whole or	r in part, by any other	firm?		
]	Is your firm o			r in part, by any other			
]	Is your firm o			r in part, by any other he following informati			
	□ No			he following informati		Extent o	
	_					Extent o	
	□ No			he following informati			
] 	No Firm name Does your fir importing str	m have an	sList th - - y related el beams	he following informati	on. c or foreign, which a into the United S	ownersh h are engag	ged in hich are
] 	No Firm name Does your fir importing str	m have an actural steeporting st	sList th - - y related el beams ructural	he following information Address d firms, either domestics from Japan and Kore	on. c or foreign, which a into the United Sun and Korea to the	ownersh h are engag	ged in hich are
] 	No Firm name Does your fir importing streengaged in expenses.	m have an actural steeporting st	sList th - - y related el beams ructural	Address d firms, either domestics from Japan and Koresteel beams from Japan	on. c or foreign, which a into the United Sun and Korea to the	ownersh h are engag	ged in hich are states?

PART I.--GENERAL QUESTIONS--Continued

•	firm have any relate of structural steel b	ed firms, either domestic or foreign, wo	hich are engaged in the
No	YesList	the following information.	
Firm name		Address	<u>Affiliation</u>
company o	r any related firm h	e we request a copy of your company' have a business plan or any internal do uture market conditions for structural s	cuments that describe,
No		se provide the requested documents. lested documents, please explain why	

II-1. Report, as indicated below, your firm's purchases (either directly or through a sales agent or broker) of structural steel beams. Report based on delivery date, not order date.

Item	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Jan Sept. 2004	Jan Sept. 2005
PURCHASES OF STRUCTUR	AL STEEL BEAMS	PRODUCE	IN THE UN	ITED STAT	ES:		
Quantity							
Value							
PURCHASES OF STRUCTUR	AL STEEL BEAMS	PRODUCE	IN JAPAN:		•	•	
Quantity							
Value							
PURCHASES OF STRUCTUR	AL STEEL BEAMS	PRODUCE	IN KOREA				
Quantity							
Value							
PURCHASES OF STRUCTUR	AL STEEL BEAMS	PRODUCE	IN ALL OT	HER COUN	TRIES:1		
Quantity							
Value							

PART II.--PURCHASES--Continued

II-2. If the relative levels of your firm's purchases of structural steel beams from different sources (both domestic and foreign) have changed since 2000 (the year the subject orders under review became effective), please list the country, state whether the relative share from that country has increased or decreased, and state the reason.

	Country	Increase/decrease	Reason			
(a)	Did your fire	m purchase structural st	eel beams from Japan and/or Korea before 2000?			
	NoSkij	p to (c)	Yes with respect to <u>Japan</u>			
			Yes with respect to Korea			
(b)	If yes, has ye 2000?	our pattern of purchasin	ng structural steel beams from Japan changed since			
	No, our	pattern of purchasing is	essentially unchanged.			
	Yes, we	discontinued purchases	from Japan because of the order.			
	Yes, we reduced purchases from Japan because of the order.					
		we changed the pattern order (please explain be	of purchases from Japan for reasons other elow).			
(c)	If yes, has ye 2000?	our pattern of purchasir	ng structural steel beams from Korea changed sinc			
	No, our	pattern of purchasing is	essentially unchanged.			
	Yes, we discontinued purchases from Korea because of the order.					
	Yes, we reduced purchases from Korea because of the order.					
		_				

PART II.--PURCHASES--Continued

	(d)	Has your pattern of purchasing structural steel beams from nonsubject foreign sources (i.e., countries other than Japan and Korea) changed since 2000 (please check all that apply).
		We did not purchase from nonsubject foreign sources before or after the order.
		No, our pattern of purchasing is essentially unchanged.
		Yes, we increased purchases from nonsubject countries because of the order.
		Yes, but we changed our pattern of purchases from nonsubject countries for reasons other than the order (please explain below).
PART	III <u>M</u>	ARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES
III-1.		of the following best describes your firm as a purchaser of structural steel beams (check apply, noting the specific end uses if known)?
	En	d User ()
	□Fa	bricator ()
	$\square_{\mathbf{Dis}}$	stributor ()
	Otl	ner ()
III-2.		our firm is a distributor or reseller of structural steel beams, what are the major types of the structural steel beams?
		you compete for sales to your customers with the manufacturers or importers from which rchase structural steel beams?

III-3. If your firm is an end user of structural steel beams, list the top three types of applications in which this product is used as a component part or input, in order of quantity of structural steel beams used. Please indicate what percentage of the <u>total cost</u> is accounted for by structural steel beams.

Application		Percent of cost accounted for by structural
		steel beams
1	<u> </u>	1
2	<u></u>	2
3	_	3
(a) If your firm is an end use products incorporating struc		teel beams, has the demand for your firm's final s changed since 2000?
Increased	Unchanged	Decreased
(b) Has this had any effect of	n your firm's de	emand for structural steel beams?
Have there been any change	s in the end uses	s of structural steel beams since 2000?
No YesDi	scuss the change	es, noting the time period in which they occurred.
Do you anticipate any chang	ges in terms of th	ne end uses of structural steel beams in the future?
□ _{No} □ _{YesPl}	ease describe an	d identify the time period. Provide any
un	derlying assump	otions, along with relevant portions of business plans
or	other supporting	g documentation, that address this issue.
(a) Please list in order of im	portance any pro	oducts that may be substituted for structural steel
beams.		•
(1)	(2)	(3)

	(b) For each possible substitute product, please give examples of applications and end uses for which they are substitutes.
	(c) Have changes in the prices of these products affected the price for structural steel beams? No Yes-Please explain.
•	Have there been any changes in the number or types of products that can be substituted for structural steel beams since 2000?
	No YesPlease explain.
	Do you anticipate any changes in terms of the substitutability of other products for structural steel beams in the future? YesPlease describe. Provide any underlying assumptions, along with relevant portions of business plans or other supporting documentation, that address this issue.
•	How has demand within the United States (and outside the United States, if known) for structural
•	steel beams changed since 2000?
	(a) within the United States
	☐ Increased ☐ Unchanged ☐ Decreased ☐ Other (describe)
	What were the principal factors affecting changes in demand?

	(b) outside the United Sta	ates
	Increased	Unchanged Decreased
	Other (describe)	
	What were the princip	al factors affecting changes in demand?
III-11.	Do you anticipate any United States?	future changes in structural steel beams demand within or outside the
	(a) within the United S	States
	□No	YesPlease describe and identify the time period. Provide any underlying assumptions, along with relevant portions of business plans or other supporting documentation, that address this issue.
	b) <i>outside</i> the United S	States
	No	YesPlease describe and identify the time period. Provide any underlying assumptions, along with relevant portions of business plans or other supporting documentation, that address this issue.

	l beams both inside and outside the United States: (a) the recent passage cable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005; (b) hurricane ita; (c) and the tsunami that occurred in Southeast Asia on December 26,
(a)	
(b)	
(c)	
	e as separate attachments to this request any studies, surveys, etc., that you
	quantify and/or otherwise discuss structural steel beams demand and/or fa
affecting structure producing/cor a whole. Of p	tural steel beams demand in the (1) United States, (2) each of the major assuming countries, including those subject to these reviews, and (3) the wo
affecting structure producing/core a whole. Of proferecasts of the Have any charprices of raw methods of producing/core	tural steel beams demand in the (1) United States, (2) each of the major issuming countries, including those subject to these reviews, and (3) the warticular interest is such data on an annual basis from 2000 to the present

decline	ur firm been refused, declined, or unable to procure structural steel beams since 2000 bles include being placed on allocation or "controlled order entry," having been d acceptance as a new customer or the renewal of existing customer status, receiving ies than are less than the quantity promised, or experiencing untimely shipments of s, etc.)
No	YesPlease note the time period(s) of any such changes, the supplier(s), the factor(s) involved, and the impact such changes h on your shipment volumes and prices.
-	
-	ng a product that is produced in the United States an important factor in your firm's ses of structural steel beams (please check ALL that apply)?
purchas No Yes	ses of structural steel beams (please check ALL that apply)? sPurchases of domestic product are required by law or regulation (for example,
purchase No No Yes	ses of structural steel beams (please check ALL that apply)? sPurchases of domestic product are required by law or regulation (for example, overnment purchases under "Buy American" provisions). This involves perce

III-17.	(a) Is the structural steel beams market subject to business cycles or conditions of competition distinctive to structural steel beams?
	No YesPlease explain and provide estimates of the duration of any such cycle.
	(b) Has the emergence of new markets for structural steel beams since 2000 affected the business cycles or conditions of competition distinctive to structural steel beams?
	☐ No ☐ YesPlease explain any such changes.
III-18.	Who are your major competitors?
III-19.	Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decisions involving structural steel beams based on the producer of the structural steel beams you purchase
	Your firm:
	Your customers:
	If at least sometimes, please discuss how your firm or your customers determine the producer and why this information is important.
	Your firm:
	Your customers:

III-20.	20. Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decision involving structural steel beams based on the country of origin of the structural steel beams yo purchase?				
	Your firm:				
	Your customers:				
	If at least sometimes, please discuss how your firm or your customers determine the source and why this information is important.				
	Your firm:				
	Your customers:				
III-21.	(a) How frequently do you make purchases?				
	Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually				
	Other (specify)				
(b) Do you expect this purchasing pattern to change in the next two years?					
	No YesHow and why do you expect these changes to occur?				
III-22.	How many suppliers do you generally contact before making a purchase?				
III-23.	(a) Do purchases of structural steel beams usually involve negotiations between supplier and purchaser?				
	No YesPlease describe these negotiations. In your response, please comment on whether purchasers generally quote competing prices as part of the negotiation process.				

	(b) Does your firm tend to vary its purchases from a given supplier within a specified time based on the price offered for that period?				
	□No	YesSpecify the time period.			
III-24.	Have you chan	ged suppliers since 2000?			
	No	YesPlease list the supplier or suppliers and indicate whether the firm was added or dropped as a supplier. Also give the reasons for the change and how frequently you change suppliers.			
III-25.	(a) Are you aw in the last 3 year	are of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, that have entered the market ars?			
	No	YesPlease identify the firms and indicate how you become aware of them.			
	(b) Do you exp	ect new structural steel beams suppliers to enter the market in the future?			
	□No	YesPlease provide details, noting the specific future time period in your response.			
III-26.	•	your suppliers to become certified or prequalified with respect to the quality, ngth, or other performance characteristic of the structural steel beams they sell to			
	No	Yes percent of purchases in 2004 Yes-all purchases			
	Please provide required.	a general description of the certification or qualification process and the time			

III-27.	Briefly describe the factors that you consider when qualifying a new supplier (e.g., quality of product, reliability of supplier, etc.) and estimate the time it takes to certify or qualify a new supplier.
III-28.	Since 2000, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their attempts to certify or qualify their structural steel beams with your firm or have any producers lost their approved status?
	No YesPlease identify these firms, the countries where they are located, and the reasons why they failed the certification/qualification process.

III-29. (a) For the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of its importance in your purchase decision for structural steel beams.

I	VERY MPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Availability			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered	🗆		
Extension of credit	🗆		
Price			
Minimum qty requirements	🗆		
Packaging			
Product consistency			
Quality meets industry standards			
Quality exceeds industry standard	s 🔲		
Product range			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service	🔲		
U.S. transportation costs			
Other (specify):			
		П	

III-29.	(b) Please list, in order of their importance, the three major factors generally considered by your firm in deciding from whom to purchase structural steel beams for any one order (examples include current availability, extension of credit, prearranged contracts, price, quality exceeding specifications or industry standards, range of supplier's product line, traditional supplier, etc.).
	1
	2
	3
	Other factors or comments:
III-30.	What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of structural steel beams?
III-31.	How often does your firm purchase the structural steel beams that are offered at the lowest price?
	La Always La Usually La Sometimes La Never
III-32.	Please list the names of any firms you considered price leaders in the structural steel beams market since 2000. A price leader is defined as (1) one or more firms that initiate a price change, either upward or downward, that is followed by other firms, or (2) one or more firms that have a significant impact on prices. A price leader does not necessarily have to be the lowest priced supplier. For those firms identified as a price leader, please specify the time period in which a price change was communicated, whether the price change was upward or downward, and whether it covered a specific geographic region or a specific product type.
III-31.	Please describe how the above firm(s) exhibited price leadership.
III-32.	How frequently does the price of the structural steel beams you are purchasing change?

III-33.	Does your firm purchase structural steel beams over the internet?
	No YesPlease describe, noting the estimated percentage of your firm's total purchases of structural steel beams in 2004 accounted for by internet purchases.
III-34.	(a) As an attachment to this questionnaire, please identify and discuss any improvements/changes in the U.S. structural steel beams industry since 2000 and explain fully, to the extent possible, the factor(s), including the order(s) under review, that was/(were) responsible for each improvement/change.
	(b) Please also discuss fully, to the extent possible, any improvements/changes that you anticipate in the future in the U.S. structural steel beams industry. Identify the specific future time period covered in your response, and discuss the factors that you believe would be responsible for each improvement/change.
III-35.	What do you think will be the likely effects of any revocation of the subject orders for imports of structural steel beams from Japan and/or Korea? As appropriate, please discuss any potential effects of revocation of the subject orders on (1) the future activities of your firm and (2) the U.S. market as a whole. Please note the future time period to which you are referring. Attach additional pages if necessary. Indicate if your response with respect to revocation of the order from Japan differs from your response with respect to revocation of the orders from Korea.
	(1) Activities of your firm:
	(2) Entire U.S. market:

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED STRUCTURAL STEEL BEAMS $\,$

V-1.		indicate the countries of origin for structural steel beams for which your firm has actual ting/pricing knowledge.					
	Unite	ted States					
	Japan						
	Korea						
	Other	countries (Please spec	eify				
IV-2. Are structural steel beams produced in the United States and in other countries used interchangeably (i.e., can they physically be used in the same applications)? Please indicate below, using "A" to indicate that the products from a specified country-pair are <i>always</i> interchangeable, "F" to indicate that the products are <i>frequently</i> interchangeable, "S" to indicate that the products are <i>sometimes</i> interchangeable, "N" to indicate that the products are <i>never</i> interchangeable, and "0" to indicate <i>no familiarity</i> with products from a specified country-pair.							
Cou	ntry-pair	United States	Japan	Korea	Other countries		
United	d States						
Japan	n						
Korea	ı						
		ntry-pair producing str please explain the fac					

$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{PART IV.--} \underline{\textbf{COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED STRUCTURAL} \\ \underline{\textbf{STEEL BEAMS}} \textbf{--} Continued \end{array}$

IV-3.	Do you or your customers ever specifically order structural steel beams from one country in particular over other possible sources of supply?				
	No YesPlease identify all relevant countries (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries) from which you or your customers prefer to order, and indicate why structural steel beams from these countries are preferred over product from other countries (please note the specific product in your response).				
IV-4.	Are certain grades/types/sizes of structural steel beams available from only a single source (domestic or foreign, including both subject and nonsubject countries)? No YesPlease identify the source and the grade/type/size.				
IV-5.	If you purchased structural steel beams from one source although a comparable product was available from another source at a lower price, please explain your reasons for doing so (please specify by country, including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). Possibilities might include transaction characteristics such as length of time to fill orders, minimum order size, reliability of supply, etc.				

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED STRUCTURAL STEEL BEAMS--Continued

IV-6. For the factors listed below, please rate how structural steel beams produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with structural steel beams produced in each of the other countries you identified (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). Copy this page as necessary to cover all possible country combinations and please attach any comments you care to make concerning your responses, especially in comparisons where you rate product from one country superior or inferior to product from another.

	compared to _		
(specify country)		(specify country)	
	SUPERIOR	COMPARABLE	INFERIOR
Availability			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered			
Extension of credit	🗆		
Lower price	🗆		
Minimum qty requirements	🗆		
Packaging	🗆		
Product consistency	🗆		
Quality meets industry standards .	🗆		
Quality exceeds industry standards	🗆		
Product range	🗆		
Reliability of supply	🗆		
Technical support/service	🗆		
Lower U.S. transportation costs	🗆		
Other (specify):			
	🗆		

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED STRUCTURAL STEEL BEAMS--Continued

IV-7. (a) How often does domestically produced structural steel beams meet minimum quali specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?			num quality			
	Always	Usua	ally \square So	metimes [Rarely or never	
	(b) How often doe for your uses or y			ctural steel beam	as meet minimum qu	nality specifications
	Japan: Alway	ys	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely or	never
	Korea: Alway	ys	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely or	never
	(c) How often doe specifications for	•			eams meet minimur	n quality
	Country		Always	Usually	☐ Sometimes	Rarely or never
	Country		Always	Usually	☐ Sometimes	Rarely or never
	Country		Always	Usually	☐ Sometimes	Rarely or never
IV-8.		structura	al steel beams cl			If so, has the price f imported structural
	☐ No change in	price				
	Prices have ch	nanged b	y the same amo	ount		
	Price of U.S steel beams from		d structural stee	l beams has char	nged relative to the	price of structural
	Price of U.S steel beams from	•	d structural stee	l beams has char	nged relative to the	price of structural
	_	_			s changed relative to ced structural steel	_
	Higher	Lowe	r			
	•	•			s changed relative to aced structural steel	•
	Higher	Lowe	r			

PART V.--SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION

Please list the suppliers from which you have purchased structural steel beams since 2000 and approximate the percentage of your structural steel beams purchases each accounted for in 2004.

		Percentage
No.	Firm name	Percentage of purchases (2004)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		